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Governor Barbour Announces State's Application

For FEMA's Alternative Housing Pilot Program

(Jackson, Mississippi) -- Governor Haley Barbour today announced submission of Mississippi's application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the Alternative Housing Pilot Program.

"The unprecedented devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina has left more than 92,000 Mississippians living in over 34,000 travel trailers and mobile homes," Governor Barbour said. "Faced with these daunting numbers, the state of Mississippi has developed innovative alternative housing solutions in order to get our citizens into more livable, sustainable transitional housing."

Mississippi's application contains three proposals. Proposal One includes the Park Model and Mississippi Cottage, Proposal Two includes the Green Mobile and Proposal Three includes the Modular Town Home.

The Park Model and Mississippi Cottage proposal requests \$400 million for the replacement of FEMA travel trailers and mobile homes. The Park Model design is similar in size and shape to travel trailers currently in use, but has several amenities and design features that create a more livable environment. The Mississippi Cottage is similar to what has been termed the “Katrina Cottage,” but has several design differences created during the proposal process.

Proposal 2 requests \$6.4 million for construction of Green Mobile units. The Green Mobile is sized similar to the Park Model unit, but is designed to maximize energy efficiency and increase affordability. The Green Mobile utilizes daylight and natural ventilation, durable materials that significantly reduce the need for the electrical heating and cooling of the unit, and site design features that orient the building relative to solar heating and prevailing winds.

Proposal 3 requests \$88.8 million for the construction of Modular Town Homes. The goal of this proposal is to build multi-family dwelling units that provide both temporary and permanent housing for disaster victims. The two-story Modular Town Home, which is 700 square feet in size, includes

two modules stacked on top of one another. The units have two bedrooms and allow for bunk rooms for varied household sizes. The site planning associated with these units will be given strong emphasis to provide a pleasing, neighborhood environment.

Immediately after Hurricane Katrina, the State of Mississippi led the movement to find a more suitable replacement for travel trailers. The first alternative housing designs were created at the Mississippi Renewal Forum, convened by the Governor's Commission on Recovery, Rebuilding and Renewal in October 2005. The cottage design produced at the forum generated substantial interest from around the country on the issue of disaster emergency housing.

Since that time, the State of Mississippi has actively pursued the issue of replacing travel trailers for its residents. In June, U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, successfully proposed the allocation of funds to support alternative temporary housing solutions.

During the process of creating the proposed alternative housing solutions, the state collaborated with an expert team of architects and organizations

including the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the College of Architecture, Art and Design at Mississippi State University, the Federation of American Scientists, and the architectural firm Looney Ricks Kiss.

“The progress Mississippi has made to date in recovery, and therefore, our readiness to implement the proposal uniquely qualifies us for this funding,” said Gavin Smith, director of the Governor’s Office of Recovery and Renewal. “We developed the original design concept of alternative emergency housing following Hurricane Katrina. Our proposal represents part of a long-term effort on behalf of the state to systematically address emergency housing needs.”

Smith said the approach has been developed in a way that recognizes how it can be used not only in Mississippi, but also in future events as part of a new way of delivering emergency housing following large-scale disasters.

For more information on each of the three proposals contained with Mississippi’s application, visit www.governorbarbour.com and click on Comprehensive Coast Housing Plan.

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